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TO THE PUBLIC.

SLANDER REFUTED!

AN EXTRACT FROM CHURCH PROCEEDINGS;

AND EXPULSION OF

MORMON APOSTATES, FROM THE CHURCH!

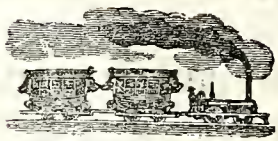
Solomon says, "answer a fool according to his folly."

TO THE SAINTS SCATTERED ABROAD, GREETING:

Respected Friends and Brethren,

As this is a day of great developements, and wonderful explosions, it stands every person in hand, to look well on all sides before they judge. In the first place we should understand, that when a man has enemies that have sworn to do him all the injury they can, out of malice and revenge, it will be expected that all manner of lies will be put into circulation concerning him.

Now I will just suppose a case, and then leave the matter for you to judge. Suppose you had an enemy, and he was to report five slanders concerning you, to the injury of your character; and you were to call a council of eight men of the first respectability, (Elders in Israel) and then prove four of the slanderous reports to be false, what ought the people to think of the fifth one? This is exactly the true statement of the case: only, the fifth one was not known at the time of the council, and never would I presume, if it had not have been to help these Mormon Apostates to carry out their plans of putting me down, and that was manufactured out of whole cloth,—a notorious falsehood; and now you have to judge between the weight of testimony for me, and the testimony against me, and see which is the strongest, and entitled to the most credit. I have herein inserted the names of the persons used against me, and wish to place them along side of the names of the following councilors, for your inspection and candid judgment.



High pressure locomotive.

ENEMIES' TRAIN—EXPRESS LINE

☞ This line leaves every hour, precisely to a minute.

Fare reduced—half price—12½ cts.

No. 1 on the list is Zilph Hornor, with three, four or five illegitimate children in her arms, *(She speaks for herself.)*

No. 2 Is Sarah Burtis, who was suspended from the fellowship of the church, for disorderly conduct in meeting, as a mocker, frowner, and other unchristian conduct, and a liar as the certificates of certain individuals plainly show, in a pamphlet, entitled 'Defence of Elder Wm. Smith, against the Slanders of Abraham Burtis and others."

No. 3. A statement that Mr. Burtis says Hannah W. Allen has made, and as I never saw the statement, and it has never been proven true, I do not know that Hannah W. Allen, ever attached her name to any such statement, written or verbal, therefore it amounts to no testimony at all, true or false.

No. 4. The fourth and last is Elizabeth Hornor, sister to the first in this train on the list, and a liar, as the following certificate will prove.

This is to certify, that Elizabeth Hornor was present at the council mentioned, when all the members present were called upon, if they had any thing against Eld. Wm. Smith, to bring it forward, that I heard her say that she had nothing against him. ANN MOORE.

Since the council, she makes a different statement, and is reporting falsehoods concerning me.

The above are the weapons that A. Burtis fights with, worthy weapons indeed! quite characteristic of his cause, Charles Asson is A. Burtis' right hand man, that is enough for me, or any reasonable man; for what does he know about church government, that he should dictate the Elders and condemn the decision of council, or A. Burtis either?

Not one of the statements, made by the above named persons, taken all separately, has ever been proven true, by one, two or three witnesses, as the law of God requires;

consequently they are not entitled to the least credit whatever. The witness of one person (if true) is not sufficient to condemn an Elder, without that witness could prove his or her statement by two or three witnesses and then the testimony is to be weighed and looked upon, according to the character or credibility of the witness, and if every one of the above named persons, were to swear to every word that Burtis has said, their testimony would be entitled to no more credit than what their characters truly merit; for my own part, I believe it would not amount to much in the minds of reasonable and judicious men, with Zilph Hornor at the head of the train, and Charles Asson and A. Burtis, as firemen, with their worthy confederates can punch up the fire, and raise the steam, on the most approved plan of high pressure, locomotive, go ahead of modern times with every car chained to its fate, they will (no doubt) soon arrive in port, unless the leading car should run off the track; which depends very much on the management of the head engineers.

But lest there be a bursting of boilers, I have concluded not to take passage on this train, for the fare, 12½ cents, is too cheap for the times.

ELDERS' NAMES OF COUNCIL.

James Curtis. Israel Ivins, Joseph H. Newton, J. M. Grant, I. R. Robbins, B. Winchester, John Sill, Wm. Smith, Wm. Richards.

Seven of the above voting to cut Burtis off from the church, Winchester voting to suspend and take his license, but not to cut off. It would be a singular thing, indeed, if A. Burtis could make the people believe that the above council made a mistake, and cut off the wrong man, and that seven councilors out of nine should all be wrong, and Abraham Burtis right. But all who please may rely on the testimony of the enemies' row.

And I will risk my cause upon the decision of the councils of Heaven, composed of the Elders of Israel here on earth.

Here follows a certificate given me by the council, signed by the President and Clerk, in the name of the council.

To all whom it may Concern:

This is to certify, that we, the undersigned members of the above Council, do hereby state, that Elder William Smith, was not before us for trial, that no charge was preferred against him, and that the Council was not called to try him, but on the contrary, that Elder William Smith preferred charges against Elder A. Burtis, and that we were

called, convened together, by Elder Wm. Smith, and held a council expressly to try Elder Burtis.

That Elder William Smith, did, of his own free will and accord, bring forward testimony, sufficient to our full satisfaction, or any reasonable man, or set of men, (whose minds were unbiased and untrammelled,) to prove himself clear of the foul charges that Elder Burtis and others had circulated concerning him, perfectly exonerating himself from any implication, in the fowl aspersions, that had been heaped with an unsparing hand upon him.

J. M. GRANT, *President of said Council*, JAMES L. CURTIS,
JOSEPH H. NEWTON, *Clerk*, ISRAEL IVINS,
ISAAC R. ROBBINS, B. WINCHESTER,
WM. RICHARDS.

Now all I have to say is, can a man do more than to prove himself innocent, any more than this I shall not attempt to do. One thing more I wish to mention, which is, that Burtis is trying to make the people believe that he had not the privilege of introducing his testimony against me before the council, this is a mistake, he was called upon a number of times, to bring forward his testimony, and did not, but got angry and left the council, who was to blame for this? was the council to run after the man and catch him, and bind him hand and foot, and bring him into council and compel him to talk? This is the true statement of the case as the minutes of the council will shew, which will shortly appear in due form, with a statement of the whole affair. And I wish it distinctly understood that A. Burtis and Charles Asson, are cut off, for lying and slandering the authorities of the Church, (and that their testimony is no longer received against the members of the Church, according to the laws of the same.) And that all those who have lied about me, may soon expect to share the same fate.

If any believe their lying tales hereafter, it is because they have not the love of the truth, but take pleasure in unrighteousness and believe a lie that they might be damned.

When an enemy like Burtis and others commence a warfare upon me without any cause or provocation they must expect I will make my defence and if I hear any more of their lying tales, I will give them their character in full.

It has been reported that I have spoken disrespectfully of the Burtis connection, this is a falsehood! I never had any acquaintance with them, consequently never had any occasion to say anything against them, and as this is only one out of the hundred and ninety and nine lies, that Burtis has told, I shall take no further notice of it.

WM. SMITH.